



Newsletter provided by the  
SC Department of Agriculture

## South Carolina Department of Agriculture



# Eat Smart...It's in the Garden

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### **Students work together to make school garden benefit their community#**



*By Elizabeth Morgan*

The horticulture students at the Applied Technology Center in Rock Hill have always raised plants to sell, but this year is different. The students are raising plants to eat. Along with a very supportive community, the horticulture students have started a community garden located on the school's campus. An array of cool season vegetable crops has been planted from seeds and seedlings. Master gardeners, neighborhood representatives and other school groups have contributed to the design, building and planting of the

garden. The Drafting class provided aerial photos and measurements so the Building Construction Class could layout the design and helped lay the bricks for the raised beds. The Culinary Arts class helped build the beds and plans to make nutritional dishes from the produce. The Environmental Science Club is one of several organizations that plan to help harvest the produce for Rock Hill people in need. Much of the produce will go to mass distribution places like the Soup Kitchen and churches in need.

Future plans for this community garden include building places to sit and give group demonstrations. With enough interest this could be a place where year round learning can take place for all ages and learning levels. Summer camps, teachers' meetings and horticulture workshops truly will take on a whole new level in this outdoor classroom



Photo: Students planting in their new raised beds. The food will benefit local food kitchens.

### **South Carolina Day at Clifdale Elementary School#**

*By Elizabeth Shuler*



Clifdale Elementary School in Spartanburg, SC recently celebrated South Carolina Day by serving South Carolina peach cobbler and sweet tea to parents and students.

The third grade at Clifdale is learning South Carolina history this year. To showcase everything they have learned about our great State, they put on a short performance for their family and friends. Afterwards, everyone went to the school cafeteria for some SC Peach Cobbler and Sweet Tea. While enjoying our State Fruit and Hospitality Beverage, SC Department of Agriculture staff shared facts and recipes about SC peaches.

### Upcoming Events

- **Touch a Truck**  
**April 13, 2013**  
**State Farmers Market 10:00**  
**\$6.00/Child**
- **Midlands Plant and Flower Show**  
**April 18-21, 2013**  
**State Farmers Market**
- **Farm to School Garden Workshop**  
**June 12, 2013**  
**State Farmers Market**

## SC Commissioner's School for Agriculture 2013

By Elizabeth Shuler



The South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture is a premier summer academic program that exposes students to opportunities, majors, and careers related to agriculture and natural resources. During this week long camp, students spend time in workshops, discussions, laboratories, and in the field. The program covers both broad topics revolving around the agricultural industry, as well as career specific areas. Students get to choose from Animal and Veterinary Science, Forestry, Wildlife and Environmental Science or Horticulture, Turfgrass and Agronomy as their area of interest.

Students must be a rising high school junior or senior and must submit the application and related materials by the deadline: **April 16, 2013**. The selection committee will review

the student's application which includes a short essay, resume, letters of recommendation, and a high school transcript. A nonrefundable deposit of \$50 is required upon acceptance. The deposit is credited towards tuition.

**South Carolina Residence: \$375**  
**Out-of-State Residence: \$650**

Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from Clemson University. Students will stay in Clemson dormitories for the week and all of their meals are provided.

To obtain an application or for additional information: SCCSA Applications Clemson University F153 Poole Ag. Bldg. Clemson, SC 29634-0306. **Applications are also online:** [www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa](http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa).



## USDA 2014 Farm to School Grant

By Susan Bowles

The National Farm to School Program encourages schools to source local foods and provide nutrition education. Its efforts are supported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through research, training, technical assistance, and by awarding over \$5 million in competitive grants.

Our own, South Carolina Farm to School Program, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is a joint effort of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, South Carolina Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Department of Education and Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute.

Core components of the South Carolina Farm to School program include: increasing the number of farms that are certified to sell local produce to schools, providing Farm to School education to food service staff and teachers, and providing hands on learning activities that promote a nutritious diet among students. It is required that each South Carolina Farm to School participant source at least two SC Grown fruits and vegetables per month, promote SC Grown in the school cafeteria, integrate nutrition and agriculture into classroom lessons, and establish a school vegetable garden.

If becoming a South Carolina Farm to School participant is something that interests you, we encourage you to research the USDA FY 2014 Farm to School

Grant. This round, the USDA is soliciting application for three different grants: planning grants, implementation grants, and support service grants. Planning grants are intended for schools just beginning to incorporate Farm to School. Implementation grants are intended for schools seeking to further develop Farm to School elements. Lastly, support service grants are for local and state agencies, agricultural producers, or non-profit entities that wish to assist schools with implementing the Farm to School program.

The grant deadline is April 24, 2013. Awards will be announced October 2013. For more information regarding the USDA Grant Application: [http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/f2\\_2013\\_grant\\_program.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/f2_2013_grant_program.htm)

**Farm to School  
Garden Workshop**  
**June 12, 2013**  
**State Farmers Market**



Join us for an educational day to learn more about how to manage an effective school garden. Enjoy garden lectures, hands on activities including, soils, compost, seeds, plants, pests, diseases, maintenance, irrigation and resources.

For more information, visit [www.scfarmtoschool.com](http://www.scfarmtoschool.com)



## Farming Update from Legare Farms *by Helen Legare-Floyd*

*Every month, Helen writes a monthly update talking about all of the going-ons at her family farm, Legare Farms in Johns Island, SC. Check out these excerpts from her monthly newsletter.*

### February 2013

It's hard to believe we were in a drought just last month. February has been a wet month. Even the pigs are starting to look like they are tired of the rain and mud. Just when I think we are going to get something planted, it rains again. I'm always grateful for the rain but can't we have it spread out over the whole year. It is planting time even if it's too wet. We're still selling CSA vegetable shares and we always plant extras just in case someone wants to join at the last minute. We may have to change some of what we are going to plant if it doesn't dry up soon. I think planning and going through the seed catalogs is one of the best parts of growing vegetables. We are growing some vegetable plants like tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash, etc for sale. It's still too early to put any of the plants outside yet but when you're ready to plant vegetables, keep us in mind. I'm also going to plant some tomato plants in larger pots that will be large enough to grow the tomatoes out for the whole season. If you want a few tomato plants for your deck or patio, let me know. I'm excited about the vegetable plants we are growing in raised beds this year. We grew some last year in raised beds but are doubling the amount and trying some new things.

We will have to trellis some things and stake some.



We have baby ducks already! Spring time is the time for babies on the farm. We lost a



lot of our sheep to coyotes this past year, so I don't think we will have any baby lambs but it looks like we will have a baby donkey soon. We already have some calves and the piglets never stop coming.

We are looking for some help on a few projects on the farm. If you are a Boy Scout or Girl Scout leader and would like to spend a weekend camping at the farm and do a service project, then we want to talk to you. Also if you have kids that need some public service work, we want to talk to you. Our Education Foundation is a nonprofit foundation so we can provide an interesting and different service project.

We are still planning a fence

building day and hope to schedule that soon. We are also still hoping to have a planting party but it has to dry out enough to get in the field. Actually getting in the field is not the problem, getting out is the problem.

The weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> is the first round of chick pick-ups for Rent A Chick. We have school children coming almost every school day from now until mid-April for our Chicken and Eggs program. Each child gets to find 10 plastic eggs with a toy inside. My husband Rick is staying busy filling eggs and counting out eggs for each field trip. So you can see spring is a busy time for us at the farm. We still have to do the everyday things like feeding and watering the animals, water plants, deliver meat and eggs, and all the other farming things that keep us going.

### Upcoming Events

**April 12-13**  
**Rent a Chick**



**April 13**  
**Charleston Mud Run**

**April 20**  
**Earth Day @ MUSC**  
**Horseshoe**  
**11:00-2:00**

**April 20**  
**Lowcountry Local First**  
**Farm Tour**

**June 10-14**  
**Summer Camp**  
**6-8 year olds**

**June 17-21**  
**Summer Camp**  
**9-11 year olds**

**July 15-19**  
**Summer Camp**  
**6-8 year olds**

**July 22-26**  
**Summer Camp**

### March 2013

We are still planting vegetables and are way behind because of all the wet weather. This week we are running around like crazy getting ready for the Battle of Charleston this coming weekend. The re-enactors will begin arriving on Wednesday to get set up but most of them will come in on Friday. We have more re-enactors preregistered this year than we have ever had at the event before. On Friday, we are having a Living History program for school children and we are expecting about 1000 children. I can't even wrap my mind around that.

# South Carolina Department of Agriculture



**Wade Hampton Building  
PO Box 11280  
Columbia, SC 29211-1280**

## School Gardens Program

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture started the School Garden initiative to provide schools and communities alike with the opportunity to learn healthy eating habits, as well as providing an effective and fun way to instill the appreciation for local agriculture and food production in our children and everyone else involved in the garden.

Incorporating the health benefits of gardening activity with the educational process of development reinforces the Department of Agriculture's goals related to promoting the consumption of locally grown products.



For more information about the S.C. School Gardens program and to share information about your school garden program, contact:

[Beth Crocker](mailto:bcrocker@scda.sc.gov), (803) 734-2193, [bcrocker@scda.sc.gov](mailto:bcrocker@scda.sc.gov).

## We're on the Web!

[www.scfarmtoschool.com](http://www.scfarmtoschool.com)

[www.scschoolgardens.blogspot.com](http://www.scschoolgardens.blogspot.com)

[www.facebook.com/scfarmtoschool](https://www.facebook.com/scfarmtoschool)

[www.twitter.com/scfarmtoschool](https://www.twitter.com/scfarmtoschool)

## Ag in the Classroom

South Carolina's Ag in the Classroom program, funded by a non-profit 501(c)(3) education foundation sponsored by South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, was created to promote awareness and recognition of the importance of the sources of our food and fiber.

Agriculture and related agribusinesses are the number one industry in the United States, and the number one industry in South Carolina generating \$34 billion annually and 200,000 jobs.

There are three components that form the structure of the Ag in the Classroom program:

1. Curricula materials
2. Professional development workshops
3. County Farm Bureau support

***For more information contact:***

**Ag in the Classroom**  
SC Farm Bureau Federation  
P.O. Box 754  
Columbia, SC 29202-0754

Vonne Knight, Director of Ag Literacy Programs  
803-936-4237



***Take advantage of the resources Ag in the classroom provides. These activities are key components in helping connect students with where their food comes from.***

***Don't forget about the Ag Simulator: Experience the thrill of riding in a life-sized agricultural combine! Ride through virtual fields of corn, cotton, and wheat! Learn about some of South Carolina's staple commodities. Ask your teacher to book SC's Ag Simulator for your next school event.***